

Ian:

Hello and welcome to our live telephone town hall meeting. Thanks so much for being on our tele town hall tonight with Congresswoman Diaz Barragan. We're here to answer your questions. She's put together a panel of public health experts who are going to be here answering your questions tonight. So we're going to get some updates first and then when we're done getting updates, we'll go ahead and start taking your questions. So if you've already got a question in mind for the Q&A portion of our forum, I encourage you to press zero on your phone. Again, you can press zero to submit a question for Q&A. You can either ask that question live or you can let your operator know when you press zero that you want me to read your question instead. If that's more comfortable for you, that's fine. Just remember press zero to submit a question and if you want me to read it and let them know, otherwise you're fine to ask your question live in the forum.

Ian:

Again, we'll have some updates in a moment here. We have some public health experts to give you updates on the Corona virus situation and the response. And so as we're moving through those introductions and those opening comments, keep thinking about questions you'd like to submit and then as soon as you have one to submit, press zero on your phone, you'll speak to an operator, give them your question and then you can let them know if you want me to read it live instead of bringing you live to ask it yourself. Again, zero for questions. The other opportunity we have for you tonight is if you'd like to get email updates from your Congresswoman Nanette Barragan, go ahead and press seven on your phone. Again, press seven speak to an operator, give them your email address and we'll keep you updated via email as the situation develops.

Ian:

So again, you can press zero to submit a question, but if you're not interested in submitting a question you just want to listen as your neighbors submit questions and we get answers, we still encourage you to press seven, give us that email and get email updates from the congresswoman's office so that we can make sure you have the best information moving forward. I'll go through this introduction one more time then I'll turn it over to your Congresswoman to get us started. Again, this is a live tele town hall with California's 44th congressional district. Thanks so much for being on the line with us. We're going to go for an hour tonight. We're going to be taking your questions in a few minutes here. We will have some public health experts on the line to answer your questions, but they're going to give us some updates first, so you may even grab a pen and paper to write down any important information that you hear.

Ian:

Again, you may grab a pen and paper, write down important information, and then as soon as you have a question you'd like to submit for Q&A, all you have to do is press zero on your phone, speak to an operator, give them your question, and then you'll have the opportunity to ask it live or you can let them know that you want me to read it instead. Again, we're going to discuss updates on the coronavirus situation and the response, so stay tuned for that. Press zero with questions and again, you can press seven on your phone to get email updates from Congresswoman Barragan. Again, seven to get email updates from the Congresswoman. Again, we're dialing out to California's 44th congressional district. Thank you for being on this live tele town hall. We'll go ahead and get started now. But remember as you listen, we'd love you to be submitting questions by pressing zero. If you want to get

email updates, press seven. Thanks so much for joining us. I'll turn it over now to your Congresswoman Nanette Barragan, please go ahead congresswoman.

Nanette Barragan:

Well thank you all for joining us today at our second telephone town hall. I'm your Congress member Nanette Barragan, and we're doing this because we had such a great response last time. We want to continue to give you accurate information about Corona virus. And there's a lot to tell you about too and answer questions on the stimulus package, so I want to go through that as well. So we've been on this stay at home order now for one week in Los Angeles. I hope you and your family are staying healthy. And we're going to hear from public health in a minute on how many cases we have up to date now. We're also going to take questions if you have them about the census. We don't want the Corona virus situation stopping people from taking and filling out the census.

Nanette Barragan:

As a matter of fact, this is a good time to do it. While you're home, fill out the census, you could do it online and we'll be talking about that. So I have three guests tonight. We've got Dr. Silvia Prieto. She's a health officer with the Los Angeles County department of public health. Second we have doctor Dr. Roderick Seamster, is the president and CEO of Watts healthcare corporation. Third we have Guillermo Gonzales, is LA's congressional liaison with the US Census Bureau. So I'm going to quickly just mention, we're going to quickly mention what you're hearing about in the news, this bill that just passed the Senate, is called the care act. And two things I'm going to mention and then we'll leave the rest of the questions, open it up, the rest of the information rather, we will leave for people to ask questions about.

Nanette Barragan:

The two biggest questions I get about is the payment. So there will be a payment that will go to those who have a social security number, not a tax payer ID but a social security number. If you receive income up to \$75,000, and you have the social security number, you will receive a check for \$1,200. If you are to do direct deposit on your taxes, we believe that's going to be direct deposited. We're waiting for more information from the treasury exactly how that will work. If you do not have a social security number, you will not qualify. If you're a retiree, you will definitely qualify as long as you meet the income threshold. The second thing we're hearing a lot about is unemployment and unemployment benefits. If you receive unemployment or you are now unemployed because of Corona virus, you will get your usual state amounts, plus the federal government is giving \$600 a week, that's in addition to whatever you receive.

Nanette Barragan:

And so with that, I'm going to turn it over now to our first speaker, Dr. Prieto. Thanks for joining us doctor.

Dr. Silvia Prieto:

Thank you Congresswoman Barragan. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak with your constituent and give them accurate information on COVID. First of all, I want to tell you that if you want to get more information, the best place to go is either to the CDC website, that's [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov), or to the [publichealth.lacounty.gov](https://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov). So let me update you on the current situation. Today we reported an additional 421 new cases of COVID. Over the last 48 hours we had 559 new cases. So in total we now have over 1,200 cases. This includes 41 cases by our partners in the city of Long Beach and nine cases in

the city of Pasadena which have their own health department. This increase is due in part to increase testing. Currently we have more testing available, but also we're catching up on a backlog of testing results that just hadn't been processed or given to us by some of the private companies who are doing the testing.

Dr. Silvia Prieto:

We're also sad to report that we have nine additional death today. Unfortunately, as we have more positive cases, we will have more deaths from COVID-19. At this time, we're not reporting any more additional information about these individuals since their families are still being notified. This brings us the total number of deaths in LA County to 21. Sorry. I also wanted to remind you that there is currently a health officer order for isolation and quarantine. The Los Angeles County health officer is requiring for everyone to be in isolation if they tested positive for COVID-19 or they're thought to be positive by their physician. If you have tested positive and you're waiting for your test results, it is very important for you to follow the directions as if you were a positive and so be in isolation.

Dr. Silvia Prieto:

So what does isolation mean? It is important for you to stay at home for at least seven days until after your fever and are symptoms free for at least 72 hours. That means you should not leave your home unless you have to go to a medical appointment. You should notify all your close contacts that you have COVID-19 so that they also can stay in their own home and hopefully stop from spreading it to others. The public health order also requires any person who is a household contact, an intimate partner or a post contact of a person who is or is thought to be positive to be in self quarantine. And so what does that mean? Again, self quarantine means that you must stay at home and away from others. You must have all your essentials delivered to you because you cannot go out to buy food or get any medications or anything like that. So let me turn it over now back to Congresswoman.

Ian:

Actually I've got you. I'll go ahead and invite, and introduce our next speaker. Thank you Dr. Prieto. So we've got our next speaker, the president and CEO of Watts healthcare corporation, Dr Roderick Seamster. Doctor, go ahead please. Dr. Seamster are you there?

Dr. Roderick Seamster:

Yes. I think I was on mute. Hello everyone. This is Dr. Roderick Seamster. I work for the Watts healthcare corporation in South Los Angeles. I first want to just thank Congresswoman Nanette Barragan for having this call and also thank all of you for being on the call. This is certainly for community health centers. I am the president of an entity that is a sister organization to a myriad of other clinics like us. Specifically in Los Angeles County there are 350 community clinics and health centers. We see about 1.7 million patients a year and we provide services to those in need, those that may not have insurance. And we deliver affordable, accessible quality and value based care to those that we serve. We have been in the business for over 50 years and most health centers are located in communities that you may live in. And we offer services that include primary care, specialty care, OBGYN, pediatrics and some urgent care and some of the specialty care such as dental, vision and HIV, maternal and child health.

Dr. Roderick Seamster:

We have been in this fight for getting care for patients that may not be able to receive care by others. We work hand in hand together to deliver the care that patients need that may not speak the language

of, that's commonly cared for and we are able to bridge that gap for our patients. During the COVID-19 occurrence in Los Angeles, the community health centers have all began to work together and create opportunities for one another. We have found that in, what the COVID-19, we have been having issues with not having enough supplies such as personal protective equipment and not enough testing kits. But it has been our goal to ensure that we're all able to work together to be able to allow us to share equipment. And when we get it, we share the equipment so that we all can treat our patients.

Dr. Roderick Seamster:

The things that we do that have been important for the community health center movement is to provide primary care to communities of need. And if you are looking for a doctor and do not have a doctor, you can go to the website, findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov, again, that's findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov, and you put in your zip code and you will be able to find a health center. It'll list health centers that are in your zip code. And so you do that and then you call the health center and you're able to be seen. Right now we found that patients have a lot of questions about COVID-19 and so you can call in to the health centers and receive information at our centers. Two, if you feel that you need to be seen and have symptoms relative to those mentioned earlier by Dr. Prieto, you will call the health center and you would speak to a clinician. And upon speaking to the clinician, they would advise you on whether or not to come in to, be evaluated for testing and then how that process would occur. And so again, that is, findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov. Thank you.

Ian:

Thank you so much. Very much appreciate that from Dr. Roderick Seamster. He's again the president and CEO of Watts healthcare corporation. We'll get our next speaker up. We've got one more speaker to give us updates before we move on to your questions. But a reminder, if you have questions, press zero. We'll be getting to Q&A in just a minute. If you want to get email updates from Congresswoman Barragan's office, please press seven on your phone. Again, seven to get email updates. I'd like to introduce next to the Los Angeles congressional liaison with the US Census Bureau, Guillermo Gonzales. Please go ahead Guillermo.

Guillermo Gonzales:

Good evening everyone. And first of all, I want to thank Congresswoman Barragan for hosting this discussion on this important topic. My name again is Guillermo Gonzales with the US Census Bureau. I just want to give a quick update on what the Census Bureau is doing. In the midst of this crisis, there is a census going on and it is more important than ever for all of us to participate because as you may know, the census data is used to distribute federal funds to communities for things like hospitals, for our clinics, first responders, and so on and so on. And so it's really important that everyone does participate. There are three ways that the public can participate online. We're strongly encouraging everyone to participate online. You don't have to come in contact with any person. You can do it from the comfort of your home. And it's takes about five minutes. It's a really short.

Guillermo Gonzales:

There's also two other ways that folks can participate, and that is by telephone and by mail. If you don't have already received your invitation to participate, you can call the number, a toll free number, (844) 330-2020, and request a questionnaire to be sent to you by mail or you can also complete your census form by telephone. And so right now you can also check the response rate of your community at 2020.census.gov/response-rate. And for the congressional district 44, currently as of Tuesday, March 24th, we

have a participation self response rate, right now it's 19.5%. California's overall self response rates thus far is 25%. So we're encouraged by that, but again, we need a hundred percent participation so communities can get the federal funding that they deserve and need, especially in these times.

Guillermo Gonzales:

So again, there's 12 languages available online. And we also have 59 other language aids available by telephone. So we're strongly encouraging everyone to participate because now more than ever, it's very important to be counted and receive the federal funding that your communities deserve. So thank you very much.

Ian:

Thank you. And Guillermo, before you go, could I ask you to read the phone number one more time for requesting a census questionnaire completing it by phone and then the website one more time please.

Guillermo Gonzales:

Absolutely. The assistance telephone line is (844) 330-2020, and the website is 2020census.gov.

Ian:

Got it. All right. Thank you so much. Let's get to our first question from the audience. A quick reminder, if you want to get email updates go ahead and press seven on your phone. We've got our first live question coming here from Francis in Wilmington. Francis, thanks so much for being on. What's your question?

Francis:

Hi. I had open heart surgery a year ago and now I'm going through physical therapy and I was wondering, it's outside physical therapy, and I was wondering if I should be going there since I do come in contact with other people.

Ian:

Dr Prieto, do you want to take that one on for Francis?

Dr. Silvia Prieto:

Sure. Thank you Francis for your question. So if I understand your question is, should you be going to physical therapy? I take it that you have some vulnerability in your health because of your open heart surgery. So I guess without giving you too much specifics, everything has to be, it's a risk benefit. So in your case, how necessary is a physical therapy? Is there any way to get some of that therapy either done in your home or can you be taught by them to do it at home by yourself? Those would be some of the questions that I would want to ask you to discuss with your physician. I assume a physician ordered this. To see if the benefits, given the risk of you being exposed to others, especially because usually when you're doing physical therapy you're touching a lot of objects which could be potentially infected.

Francis:

Okay. Okay. Thank you so much. I appreciate it.

Dr. Silvia Prieto:

You're welcome Francis.

Ian:

Thank you Francis. Appreciate the answer from Dr. Prieto. We've got our next one on from Roslyn. Hey Roslyn, why don't you tell us where in the district you're from and go ahead with your question as well please.

Roslyn:

I'm from Carson, California. And my question is for Dr. Prieto. I'd like to know what are some of the other symptoms of COVID-19 besides running a temperature or fever?

Dr. Silvia Prieto:

Thank you Roslyn. So there's a lot of things that can present as COVID, but the most common things that we are looking for is fever, cough, a new kind of cough and also a shortness of breath. Those are the three ones that concern us the most and those are the ones we would want you to call your physician if you are having any of those symptoms.

Roslyn:

May I add to that question please?

Dr. Silvia Prieto:

Sure.

Ian:

Yeah, go ahead.

Roslyn:

Okay. Now with the coughing, is there any [inaudible 00:21:01] or anything associated with that? And also with the chest pain, could that be the same symptoms as like bronchitis?

Dr. Silvia Prieto:

Yeah, so it could be and you could have [inaudible 00:21:16] Again, I think the best thing is for you to discuss your symptoms with your physician who hopefully knows your medical history and can figure out which of these are new and which of these are maybe getting worse, that may require you to have a test at this time.

Ian:

Yeah, absolutely. Thank you doctor. And thank you Roslyn. And that's exactly the case, talking to your primary care physician to determine whether or not you might have a disease. Absolutely the best advice. So we'll get to our next question right away and we've got one from Jackie up next. Hey Jackie, you're live, go ahead.

Jackie:

Hi. my name's Jackie and I'm in the city of Compton. My question is, I'm the primary caretaker for my mom. She's the 92, will be 93 next month. She does have Alzheimer's. She is currently in hospice. The hospice now only comes like once a week because of the COVID-19. I'm concerned because I've had to go out and do a little shopping for her, getting things that she needs. I want to know what I can do, because I feel like I'm wanting to get tested. I really don't have anybody come into the house. It's just her and I, but... Well I have my sister here too. But I just wanted to see if I... Really concerned about my mom and also myself. But what can I do to get tested? Cause I hear you have to have the symptoms then I hear that some people don't have any signs until it's too late. So I just need to know what direction do I need to... And are they going to be setting up anything in the city of Compton or somewhere in this general area where the people, the community can go get tested?

Ian:

Got it. Great question Jackie. Thank you so much. Who would like to take on that question for Jackie about setting up potentially mobile testing?

Dr. Roderick Seamster:

This is Dr. Seamster. I think that if you feel you need to be tested, one thing you could do is call in to one of the community health centers in your area and speak to the clinicians there, that's one. And number two, it's true that you usually have to have symptoms and other signs in order to get the test. And so we'd have to look at your specific situation to see how best to be able to either get you a test or just give you some more corners on what you could do to make sure that you don't get exposed and you don't get infected and you don't pass it on. I think what your interest is and to your mom. So why don't you give us a call and we can speak to you further about that.

Dr. Silvia Prieto:

I'd also like to add, Jackie, this is Dr. Prieto. First of all, thank you for taking care of your mom, especially during this very challenging time with Alzheimer. That certainly takes a lot of patience. But you were asking specifically about how to protect yourself. And the best thing is what we tell everybody, try to limit the amount of times that you go out to the supermarket. If you can have stuff delivered, that's all the much better. But when you go, you want to try to keep distance from other people in the store and then as soon as you come home, you want to wash your hands again at least 20 seconds with soap and water to make sure before you interact with your mom.

Dr. Silvia Prieto:

The best thing that you can continue to do is try to keep yourself as healthy as possible. And that goes with the other person in the house, I believe you said was your sister. Limit the amount of other people who come into the house and practice a lot of hand-washing and if they need to come in because of some reason something needs to be done in the house, again, try to keep at least six feet away from them.

Ian:

All right. Thank you so much. Appreciate those answers.

Nanette Barragan:

Ian if I may just add a little here. this is Congress member Barragan. I'm in a similar situation. I care for my mother at night. She's Alzheimer and I've been very concerned. But there's such a shortage on

testing. It's really being left for people who are experiencing symptoms as priority. So until then, all of the advice we just heard from our medical experts are what we should be doing in the meantime, is keeping as much distance as you can and washing your hands. I've been doing that religiously and so I know where you're coming from and how challenging this is. So thanks Jackie.

Ian:

Yeah, and thank you Congresswoman Barragan. We'll get our next one up from Brian. Quick reminder, you can press seven to give us your email address to get updates from the congresswoman's office. Brian, you're live with congresswoman Barragan, please go ahead. Brian, you still there? Maybe on mute. I'll go ahead and [crosstalk 00:26:32] his question. Oh, go ahead with your question for congresswoman Barragan. You're live.

Brian:

Good evening Congresswoman Barragan. I am a junior studying [inaudible 00:26:41] high school. And I appreciate the work that you have done with this. I also want to thank you for being a progressive voice in Congress. And so the Senate recently passed the care act as you mentioned, but it seems to me about 11 million undocumented people, which will be one of the demographics most impacted because of Corona virus. What resources are available for the undocumented and what happens, for example, to a working class family who pays taxes through an ITIN but loses their job and it's paycheck to paycheck, not eligible for unemployment insurance or direct payment?

Nanette Barragan:

So thank you for your question. And you raised the really good points. This was a consensus issue that the Hispanic caucus and us irate as well about what was being put into the bill to make sure that we have our people protected. And people who pay taxes, there's a lot of of immigrants here who pay taxes that have, not a social carry number but a tax filing number. And unfortunately we could get agreement between the house and the Senate to include immigrant families. And so it's been a real challenge. There is money going to cities on community development, block grant money. There is money going to food pantries and nonprofits. So there will be dollars going to some groups that will be able to help these of service to immigrant community.

Nanette Barragan:

But this is one of the areas we're going to continue to push on and making sure that we try to get something in for the next package. Because there is already talk about working on the next stimulus package. The next step. We've got to get through the bill tomorrow, but there is a gaping hole. And so I'm happy to talk to you further about it. But we did make effort, a huge push and we need to make sure that we include those protections. It's very challenging right now with the administration to agree to just about anything for immigrant communities. And given the severity of the timing and the other concern about whether members of Congress are going to have to fly back. This is a really what we were able to get, is some support for food pantries to be able to get support for some of the organizations and groups and [inaudible 00:29:27] now are providing services to immigrant communities.

Nanette Barragan:

Now on the state level, I think it's a different scenario and the governor has been more inclusive, and we'll be happy to call you back and circle back on some of those.

Ian:

Thank you so much Congresswoman Barragan. Thank you very much for that question. And we'll get right to our next one. Quick reminder, you can press seven to get email updates from the Congresswoman. We've got Robert next. Robert from San Pedro, but he prefers not to go live so I'll read his question. He says, If a married couple are sheltered together and one spouse shows signs of COVID-19, what is the other spouse to do? Who would like to take that question on? Either Dr. Prieto or Dr. Seamster, I'd love to hear from you.

Dr. Silvia Prieto:

So I can take that. This is Dr. Prieto. So I assume one is COVID positive and the other one is negative or unknown.

Ian:

We don't have Robert live, he wanted his question read.

Dr. Silvia Prieto:

Okay. Well I'll answer it. So generally since they've already been living together, the two of them have been exposed to the same virus, so we will generally say they can stay together. However, again, it depends on the medical condition of the other person. If they are severely immunocompromised or they have other conditions, which it's not a good idea for them to be together, then we would recommend that one of them go to a different location. At a minimum, what they should try to do, if only one is positive is sleep in separate bedrooms. If possible use a different bathroom so that they don't share and basically just try to separate as much as possible. But it is a challenge when a couple is together for the other person not to be exposed to the same virus that the first one has.

Ian:

Got it. Thank you Dr. Prieto. Really appreciate that answer. And thank you so much for your question. We've got a lot of great questions here. We're going to get to as many as we can in the hour that we have here. We've got about half hour left, so let's keep going. We've got our next one coming from Isabella. Isabelle in Long Beach. Thanks for being on. Go ahead with your question.

Isabelle:

Thank you. My question is regarding the stimulus package and how the process is going to look like. Are people going to have to apply or is it linked to your tax return? And what about retirees that don't necessarily file their tax return? How will they be eligible for it?

Nanette Barragan:

Well thanks Isabelle for that question. If you are a retiree who collects social security, you are eligible to receive the \$1,200 as long as you still don't go over the \$75,000 threshold. We don't have any specifics from the department of treasury yet on how they're going to allocate that money or how they're going to distribute that money. Democrats were trying to get to the social security administration to dole out the dollars, but I think what will happen is once the bill passes, we will get more direction from the treasury on retirees and how they will get that money. What happens with retirees, they get a form every year. Usually it says to SSA 10.99, it tells you how much you receive for the year. And so you may

not file taxes, but you get that form, you're eligible. And so the question is going to be, are they going to direct deposit it if you already get direct deposit now? If you don't, will they mail you a check?

Nanette Barragan:

And so those are details we're still waiting on. And so that's as far as retiree. If you are a tax payer, you work and let's say you filed taxes in 2018, if you filed taxes in 2018, they will use your 2018 returns. And if you put it in your bank routing information, my understanding is they're going to use the same way to pay the 1200, up to \$1,200. If you filed a 2019 return already, they're going to use your 2019 amount. So this is important because I've had some people say, "Well, in 2018 I made \$40,000 [inaudible 00:33:49] qualify. 2019 I made more than the 75,000." The guidance that we're getting is, if you filed a 2018 return but not yet a 2019 return, they'll use your 2018 return income and they'll use the method that you use then.

Nanette Barragan:

So if you put down your banking information, it will be used that way. If you haven't filed yet, they're going to use that. If you filed this year, they're going to use that. There's a lot of, a \$500 going to be per child for individuals earning \$99,000 or less, or married couples of 198,000. So they're also dollars for children. Now if you're a student, you will qualify as long as somebody else doesn't claim you as a dependent. So that's going to be one of the key. If you're a retiree or you're a student, you're eligible so long as nobody claims you as a dependent. And so I hope that answers your question.

Ian:

Thank you very much Congresswoman. Thanks for that question Isabelle, and great question. We've got one here from Andy live next. Quick reminder, you can press seven to get email updates. Andy in San Pedro your live. Go ahead please.

Andy:

Hello, Congressman Barragan. This one's directed at you. I work on the waterfront. I'm a longshoreman, local 13. I work in the ports of LA and Long Beach. And we've been deemed essential workers because we're bringing in cargo that is necessary to help keep this economy alive. I'm just asking you for any information about the safeguards that you guys have in place for this workforce that has been deemed essential. And again, appreciate your support. I know you've been a big supporter of our workforce.

Nanette Barragan:

Well thanks Andy for participating and for your question and for the work you do and all of members ILWU. My brother is a member, he's been for 25 some odd years and my whole family, my uncle was as well. It's a tradition here in San Pedro. The port of Long Beach and LA have both been working closely with the PMA and the ILWU to deploy cleaning supplies to the longshoremen and the women. PMA and ILWU are also developing protocols for sanitizing that they will roll out to their workforce. And so we have been trying to address and getting some of the protective equipment for workers at the port and we have a not yet been successful.

Nanette Barragan:

I had a call today with the chairman of transportation, Peter DeFazio's, who said, "Look, we have been trying to get the gear there and it wasn't, it didn't make it into the stimulus bill this time," but we have to continue to push because you all are the lifeblood of bringing goods and supplies in and are on the

front lines. And so I want to thank you for your work and apologize that they could not come to an agreement and get it in. We're going to continue to push and fight to make sure that we are giving you all what you need. But in the meantime we're going to continue to work with the port and PMA and ILWU to get to use it to do what we can. But we are very appreciative of your work and are going to be rolling out protocols for sanitation, sanitizing [inaudible 00:37:36]

Ian:

Thank you, Congresswoman. Thanks. Great question Andy, and thank you for the work you're doing right now. We're going to get to our next question. Congresswoman, we've got one here on the census. So let's take this one from Gloria in Compton. Gloria, you're live. Go ahead. Oh, I'm sorry, Gloria wanted her question read. You can go ahead. I've ruined reading your question. You can take it away, Gloria.

Gloria:

Oh, okay. I'm not sure who this [inaudible 00:38:03] out to census. And I was calling because I mailed my census in already, but I wanted to know, someone had told me and then I thought I heard mayor Garcetti say he'll call in. So that's what I needed to know. If I've already mailed it, why do I need to call in to for the census?

Guillermo Gonzales:

Yes. This is Guillermo Gonzales with the census. Thank you for your question ma'am. Yeah, if you already mailed your form, you don't need to call in. I think mayor Garcetti was referring to options that people have to participate in the census. And that's one of the options by telephone, by online or by mail. So you don't need to resubmit or answer again. We only want to count everyone once, only once and in the right place. And as far as the census is concerned, the timelines have been extended. Originally we had till July 31st for everyone to respond, but that deadline has been extended to August 14th. of course we strongly encourage everyone to respond to the census as soon as possible because as I mentioned earlier, the census is used to determine funding for communities, for things like community clinics, hospitals, first responders and vital services along with a social support services like food assistance, WIC for a single mothers, housing. So many things depend on the census. So it's vitally important that now more than ever that you respond to the census.

Ian:

And of course we have different ways to do that without coming in contact with any one person, as I mentioned, by telephone online or by mail.

Nanette Barragan:

Ian, may I add-

Ian:

Thank you again Guillermo. Of course.

Nanette Barragan:

Ian, this is Congresswoman Barragan. I just wanted to, I didn't say at the top, but I got my census form mailed to me I think on March 12th, and it was an invitation to go online to do it and it was very easy. It took me about 10 minutes to do. If you haven't yet done it, you'll get asked questions like the name of

everybody in the household, the date of birth of very in the household, the relationships to the head of household. And it's providing information, that information is secure. If you don't have the internet you can certainly call in. I even got a follow up postcard on March 26th saying, "Hey, you haven't responded yet. Please respond." And so hopefully you're getting these notices in the mail. Guillermo, if I could just ask you, if somebody has not yet received something in the mail, what do you recommend them do? Who do they call? What should they do if they not yet received anything in the mail?

Guillermo Gonzales:

Yes. Thank you for that making that point Congresswoman. They can call the number 800, excuse me, (844) 330-2020 and ask to be sent a form or they can take your questions over the telephone or rather your questionnaire can be completed over the telephone.

Nanette Barragan:

Great. Thanks.

Ian:

Thanks again, Guillermo. And it was a census2020.org you said Guillermo?

Guillermo Gonzales:

2020census.gov, .gov.

Ian:

2020census.gov great, thank you. We're simulcasting this event in Spanish, so I'm making sure they get all the right information over there. So again, that phone number, if you haven't received your census and you want to take it over the phone or you want to ask the the form to be mailed to you, that's (844) 330-2020. And if you want to do it on the web, you can do it at 2020census.gov. That's a great question, we appreciate you asking it. Let's get our next one up right away from Travis. Travis, thanks for waiting. You're live on the line. Go ahead, please, sir.

Travis:

Yeah, my question was how long is the \$600 federal bonus to the unemployment going to last? I've heard mixed things about three weeks in July. So I just wanted to make sure that was kind of clear.

Nanette Barragan:

So the way the bill was written was that the \$600 per week on top of your regular benefit would provide for up to four months. So it's up to four months and you have to get unemployment for you to be able to get this. And so people know, there's some folks like people in the gig economy, like Uber drivers and freelancers who generally would not be able to qualify for unemployment, will be able to qualify for this benefit. And so people have to apply for unemployment just as they normally would, get the determination that they get the unemployment benefits and then that benefit will kick in. The other thing I'll tell you is it's up to four months and we are very cognizant of the fact that we don't know how long this will go. The virus will dictate the timeline on how long we will be going through this challenging time.

Nanette Barragan:

And the house is prepared and is talking about what we need to do next and when we need to look at the issue again to make sure people are covered. So this is up to four months for the time being. But if this thing goes longer, I think you'll see action by Congress. So we're already looking at what would be the next package to make sure we have people that are not left behind. One of the, just to give you some examples, increase in snap. We've been talking about support workers that are not getting their coverage, migrant family, things like that. So for now it's four months.

Ian:

Great. Thank you very much Congresswoman. We've got our next question coming from our Spanish simulcasts, so I'll go ahead and read it. This question's from Sergio, who's in Compton and his question is, there's many of us who don't go to the doctor other than community clinics. Where would it be convenient for us to go in this case? Which one of our doctors would like to take that one on from Sergio in our Spanish simulcasts. He's in Compton. [inaudible 00:44:26]

Dr. Roderick Seamster:

This is Dr. Seamster. So the community clinics are still open. We have a diminished panels, we're seeing less patients because of the requirements to stay home. But we are answering the phone, we are doing phone visits and he can call in this community health center. Certainly call the Watts health center. We're close to Compton and we could speak to him about his health issues and decide on what needs to happen in his case. And so again, but if our health center is not the one he is close to, then he can also again make sure that he just finds the health center. And one way to do that is findahealthcenter.hrsa. So .H-R-S-A.gov.

Ian:

Would you mind reading that one more time? It was find a health center what?

Dr. Roderick Seamster:

Findahealthcenter.hrsa. So H-R-SA.gov.

Ian:

Got it. [crosstalk 00:45:26]

Dr. Roderick Seamster:

Findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov. And you place your zip code in and it'll list, have a list of health centers near where the zip code is.

Ian:

Excellent. Thank you again for that Dr. Seamster. We've got our next one. This is coming from [crosstalk 00:45:48] in Wilmington. [crosstalk 00:45:50]

Guillermo Gonzales:

... can I just interject real quick. I didn't realize that this was the Spanish simulcasts I would be remiss if I didn't say that we have Spanish speakers online ready to assist folks fill out their census questionnaire in Spanish at this telephone number that I'm going to give you. And that's (844) 468-2020.

Ian:

Got it. And that's the general line and then they can choose Spanish?

Guillermo Gonzales:

Correct. Again, that's (844) 468-2020. [foreign 00:46:37]

Ian:

Yup. And that's all being translated into Spanish for Spanish simulcasts audience. But we appreciate your excellent Spanish. Thank you Guillermo. And thank you for reiterating that number. We actually had a question from an older couple over on the Spanish simulcasts. They said, We're older and it takes us some time to write down numbers, so could you please repeat it? So we just took care of that for them. And thanks so much. We've got our next one coming from Alex who's asking you to read this question. And the question is, his wife is expecting, she's three months pregnant and wonders, What should we be expecting during the pandemic as far as dealing with a pregnant wife and then eventually going to the hospital for that? So who'd like to take on that question from Alex? Dr. Prieto.

Dr. Silvia Prieto:

Sure. Well, when you're pregnant, one thing to realize is that you are considered to be more immunocompromised. What does that mean? Is that you're a little bit more susceptible to getting illnesses, viruses, even the common cold, the flu. So you really want to even more be careful. To frequently, I can't say this enough, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Stay at home. Hopefully, you're not an essential worker that needs to go to work. If you are, if there's any way that you can tele work, that would be ideal because you really want to limit the exposure that your wife has while she's pregnant. Thank you. And again, should she develop any symptoms, she should again, call her a personal physician and discuss her situation with them.

Ian:

All right. Thank you so much and I appreciate that question from Alex. Thank you very much. We're going to get to our next question and this is kind of a general question, but it's a good one from Alma. The question is, how long can my kids safely be outside? We'd like to take that one on before we get to our next. Maybe Dr. Seamster.

Dr. Roderick Seamster:

Sure. What we'd like for you to do is to make sure that when your kids are outside, number one that they are practicing social distancing so they're not really in contact with others. And you also want to make sure that when they go out, before they go outside they contain a practice of washing your hands, making sure that you do that for 20 seconds that was mentioned by Dr. Prieto and when they come in that they do the same thing, that they make sure that they washed your hands, use soap and water and if they're outside and if they do feel that they've touched something, they should also have available hand sanitizer as well.

Ian:

Got it. Excellent. Thank you for that answer and thank you so much for your question Alma. Our next one's going to come from our Spanish simulcasts. This is from Theresa in San Marcos. Question is, My

husband and myself don't go out other than work or shopping and she'd like everyone else to do the same. Well, that's just great. Any comments on that Congresswoman?

Nanette Barragan:

I think that's great advice. We should have people stay in as much as possible. That's the reasoning behind the stay at home orders, is to stay home and only go out for essential like medical appointments or going to the grocery store to go shopping. So thank you for that.

Ian:

Absolutely. Thank you. Our next one's also coming from our Spanish simulcasts. This one's from Teresa Yammis who's, let's see, in Compton. Question is, I own a store. It's closed since March 18th. Is there going to be any type of help for us to pay rent. I have nine people depending on me at work. Also, I want to know if seniors will get a check. I have a contact with people at work, I have body pain, cough and a cold and wondering if I got the virus or is it just some other illness. So Congressman, could you take on the really tough question there from Theresa and on how to help her with her store.

Nanette Barragan:

So the stimulus bill that we're expecting a vote on tomorrow in the house is providing a small business assistance. Up to \$350 billion is going towards small businesses. What they're doing is it's starting as a loan. So you'll apply for a loan to maintain operations, pay rent, pay your workers and that loan will then be forgiven. So it really is going to turn into a grant. And so I would encourage you to reach out to apply for the small business assistance and the loan that will turn into a grant. And so this was something that we fought very hard for to help small business and the idea is to help small business to stay afloat during this critical time. And I think the second part of that question was about seniors qualifying for the \$1,200 payment. And they absolutely will if they have a social security number. I think that was the second part of the question. If I didn't answer it completely please you can [inaudible 00:52:13] we can certainly follow up or reach out to us.

Ian:

Excellent. Thank you again, Congresswoman. Thank you for that question from Teresa. Let's see, we've got one here from Tanya. Oh, quick reminder. You've got about 10 minutes left in our tele town hall tonight. If you want to give us your email address to get updates from the congresswoman's office, now's your last chance to do that on this call. So please press seven if you want to get email updates from the congresswoman's office moving forward. I'm going to get our next question right away. This one's from Tanya in San Pedro. Tanya, go ahead.

Tanya:

Thank you. Hi. I have seen some things on Facebook about ibuprofen and Advil and the [inaudible 00:52:50] or the effect that it would have with the CO-19, whatever, you know what I mean. The Corona virus. I want to know was that myth truth or facts? And then I had one quick question about the census. My daughter is away in the military. Do I include her as in the household because she said she did not receive a census form there on base?

Ian:

Good question Tanya. Guillermo, can you take that one, the question on the census on first?

Guillermo Gonzales:

Yeah. If she's based in a military base overseas or wherever she's based. If she's housed at a military installation or facility, she will be counted there. If she is going to be living with you on April 1st, she will be counted at your house. You can count her in your house. But if she's away on duty, house in a military facility, the military facility will report their population.

Tanya:

And as far as Advil and ibuprofen having adverse effects with the Corona virus, is that true?

Dr. Silvia Prieto:

[crosstalk 00:54:05] Yeah. And in fact we actually recommend that anybody who has a fever, assuming they're not allergic to ibuprofen, that they take ibuprofen. So there is no contra indication. And this brings up the point that there's a lot of things on the internet going around that are unfortunately not true. So it's really important that you get your information from credible sources. And so I will say it again for those who want to, you can always go to publichealth.lacounty.gov or another good site is the cdc.gov. Those are two excellent sites where you can get credible information. There's a lot going on Facebook that are basically hoax and people also trying to sell unproven cures for Corona virus. As far as we know, there is currently no known cure for the Corona virus and there is no vaccine for it at this time. Thank you very much.

Ian:

Thank you so much for being a verifiable source Dr Prieto. We appreciate you. Let's get our next one up from Emma in Compton. Hey Emma, you're live.

Emma:

Hi Congresswoman, this is councilwoman Emma Sharif here in Compton. And my question is in regards to the stimulus bill that they are looking at passing. And I'm just wondering and looking at this bill, it appears that, as far for cities is concerned, the assistance would only be provided to those cities that have a large population of 500 Residents or more. However, of the smallest cities here, would there be any type of assistance that's going to be provided to them? And if so, how is it going to be done?

Nanette Barragan:

Well thank you councilwoman for joining and for the question. This has been a huge issue. We've heard from a lot of different elected officials from cities throughout my district and really across the country. Because you're right, the way the bill was written in the Senate, it required a population of 500,000 for the payments to be given directly. And so the way that this is going to work is cities are going to have to go to the state because this pot of money is going to state and local government. And so you ought to go, number one to the state up for some of this aid. Now they also have a lot of money, there's quite a lot of money that's being put into community development block grant. And that will be a more direct way that you, your city can apply to get community development block grant money. That would be more direct. So there's two avenues here cities can take. It's going to be CDBG money and the state. So I would encourage your city to take both of those avenues and try to get dollars under programs.

Guillermo Gonzales:

Yes. Thank you Congresswoman for those comments. Again, this is Guillermo Gonzales from the Census Bureau. This point right here, this question that you just asked me really underscores the importance of the census. When cities aren't counted, when the people don't respond to the census, that data is used to determine who gets federal resources. So this really highlights the importance in responding to the census for everybody.

Ian:

Yeah, that's-

Nanette Barragan:

Excellent.

Ian:

That's on point Guillermo. Thank you so much. And thank you Emma. Great question. Appreciate you being on. We've got our next one from Maria in Carson. Hey Maria, thank you for waiting. Go ahead with your question please.

Maria:

Hi. Yes, my question's in regards to what is being done with the loved ones who are passing away, do they still have a proper burial? What is the proper way to prevent the virus from being spread after a loved one has passed away with the Corona virus?

Ian:

All right. And which of our doctors might be a good one to answer that? Do you want that one Dr. Prieto?

Dr. Silvia Prieto:

Yeah, unfortunately I don't have any good information to share on that, but we can get back to her with some information.

Ian:

Okay. Yeah. And we have Maria's contact information actually. That'll be in reporting, so we'll be able to follow back up with her. And we're actually just about at the end of our hour. This hour went by fast. Thank you everybody who's been a part of this live forum tonight. If you didn't get a chance to ask your question or have it answered or you didn't have a chance to give us your email, we'd love to have you on the email list anyway. So if you didn't get a chance to give us your email tonight, you can sign up for Congresswoman Barragan's newsletter on her website. And that's going to be @barragan.house.gov And I'll spell that out for you so you make sure you have it. It's B-A-R-R-A-G-A-N dot house dot G-O-V. So that's barragan.house.gov. B-A-R-R-A-G-A-N dot house dot G-O-V. If you'd like to get more information and sign up for the newsletter on her website.

Ian:

So in case you didn't get a chance to press seven tonight and give us your email address, that's where you can sign up and get more information. We want to make sure that you have the most updated and

accurate information moving forward. So I'll turn it back over to Congresswoman Barragan to take us to the close. Go ahead please.

Nanette Barragan:

We just want to thank you all for joining us. Apologized this at the beginning of the call, you heard a lot of ringing, we were getting a lot of phone calls coming at the same time. I'm glad you stuck with us. I want to also give our telephone number, is (310) 831-1799. If we didn't get your question, somebody from my office will be reaching out to you over the course of the next week. We've been trying to call everybody back who had a question that didn't get an answer tonight because we're here to be a service to you. And so can you continue to stay tuned. Call us if you have a question, if you have a concern. If you have somebody stuck in a foreign country, we had a constituent stuck in Peru, somebody who is stuck in Guatemala, our office can help those folks make it back to their families here. Please reach out to us. And the last thing I want to mention is, we have a webpage specifically on the Corona virus. You can find it, it's barragan.house.gov/coronavirus. And so if you go to that, there would be a resource page there as well. I thank you all. Please, please, please fill out your census and stay home and stay healthy. Thank you all.

Ian:

Thank you again everybody. If you'd like to get ahold of the congresswoman's office and you didn't get a chance to write that number down again, it's (310) 831-1799, again, (310) 831-1799. And again, it's barragan.house.gov/coronavirus for more information. Thanks everybody for being a part of this forum. Thanks to our excellent featured guest speakers for answering all of our questions. And of course the Congresswoman for organizing this and answering all your questions about the stimulus. Really appreciate you taking your time tonight. Stay safe.